

among you ; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment”?

In order to secure the Church from such discordant sounds as would be the necessary result of the indiscriminate admission of all who would be willing to acknowledge the Scriptures as the rule of faith: and in order to serve as a bulwark against the encroachments of error and heresy, it is absolutely necessary that there should be Creeds and Confessions of Faith. Without such *well defined* and *scriptural* formularies there can be none of that union and harmony which are so essential in the Church of God, and there can be no protection from the ravages of God dishonouring and soul destroying error. When the hedge of well defined and *Scriptural* terms of communion is broken down “the boar out of the wood doth waste” the Lord’s vineyard, “and the wild beast of the field doth devour it.” We quote, with much pleasure, the following excellent remarks on this subject, by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.—

“The arch enemy of truth has invited us to level our walls and take away our fenced cities. He has cajoled some true-hearted, but weak-minded believers to advocate this crafty policy ; and, from the best of motives, some foolish brethren are almost prepared to execute the cunning design. ‘Away with creeds and bodies of divinity!’ This is the cry of the day. Ostensibly it is reverence for the Bible, and attachment to charity which dictates the clamorous denunciation ; but at the bottom it is hatred of definite truth, and especially of the doctrines of grace, which has suggested the absurd outcry. As Philip of Macedon hated the Grecian orators because they were the watch dogs of the flock, so there are wolves who desire the destruction of our doctrinal formularies that they may make havoc of the souls of men by their persistent heresies. It is a very high honor to our systems of divinity that the gentlemen of the new school cannot endure them. Their praise would have been a censure tantamount to condemnation ; their abhorrence is an encomium almost equal to an apostolic sanction. Were there no other argument in favor of articles and creeds, the detestation of theologians might go far to establish them in Christian estimation. Weapons offensive to our enemies should never be allowed to rust. Artillery to the front ! Gentlemen, we are greatly obliged by the intimation of your disapproval : we repay you by an additional field piece. May it incite your most cordial horror ! we shall have proof of its efficiency.

Treatises on theology like all human productions, are imperfect ; but this is not an available pretext for their rejection, for on this plea all our ministries, teachings and missions must cease, since they, too, are human and must have their failings. The pretence that articles of faith fetter the mind, is annihilated by the fact that the boltest thinkers are to be found among men who are not fool-hardy enough to forsake the old landmarks. He who finds his creed a fetter has no creed at all, for to the true believer a plain statement of his faith is no more a chain than a sword belt to the soldier, or a girdle to the pilgrim.

If there is any fear that scripture should be displaced by handbooks of theology, we should be the first to denounce them : but there is not the shadow of reason for such a dream, since the most Bible reading of all nations is that in which the Assembly’s catechism is learned by every